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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Town of As/Prices/ Employment/ Living Quarters

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. "Prices in the town of As, as of June 53, were as follows; [new currency figures are used]:

<u>Goods</u>	<u>Cost</u>
movie ticket	2, 3, 4, 5, Kcs.
variety [?], best seats	10
work shirt	45
better quality shirt	70
warm sport dress	105
medium quality suit	450
1 meter best woolen stuff	490
pair of shoes	230
pair of cotton socks	12
poor quality hat	43
1 meter lady's cotton goods	22
green coat, Montgomery model	230
leather gloves	70
shoe sole	20
rubber boot heel	5
hair cut	2
shave	2
hair cut, shave, shampoo	12
1 pkg razor blades (16 blades)	5
1 cake shaving soap	9

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Goods	Cost
1 cake toilet soap	3.20 Kcs
funeral wreath	200
1 bunch artificial flowers	up to 150
1 artificial flower	2.50
1 camellia, in pot	35 to 60
1 chrysanthemum	20
young fruit tree	10
autogen welding apparatus	2000
artificial rain apparatus (for gardeners; transportation costs from Olomouc included)	4800
1 meter of glass, 5 mm thick	16
1/2 liter beer, 12%	2
1 liter white wine	38
1 liter rum	48
1 liter plum / brandy /, 40%	75
1 liter cognac, Czech origin	98
100 gr Romadour	2
10 'Partyzanka' cigarettes	1.60
calf steak	7.20
pork steak	7.30
1 kg sausage	26
1 kg Hungarian salami	180
1 kg head-cheese	22
1 kg butter	45
1 kg apples	6
75 gr chocolate with nuts	4.50
75 gr chocolate without nuts	7
compote (in restaurant)	2.20
1 cup black coffee	3.20
1 cup tea	1
soup	1.50
1 kg cabbage	1
1 kg carrots	0.70
1 kg onions	4
1 kg celery	3.50
1 kg spinach	2
1 kg cucumbers	1
1 kg tomatoes	1
1 cauliflower	3 to 5
1 head lettuce	0.40

2. "All foods were available in As, with the exception of southern fruits and caviar. Queues for food were comprised mostly (about 80%) of women from 30 to 50 years old. They wanted mostly meat, butter and eggs. They also wanted defective textile goods, / seconds /. The only goods imported from the USSR were sardines.
3. "Wages: a married gardener, with one child, got 1100 new crowns a month. Women employed in gardening received 450 to 620 new crowns a month. Workers on hourly wages were entitled to the following bonuses: up to 1000 kcs a month - 120 kcs; up to 1200 kcs a month - 30 kcs. As chief of the gardening project in As, I received 980 kcs a month. My expenses, per month, were as follows: 850 kcs for food; 100 kcs for cigarettes; 30 kcs for incidentals. (I paid no rent for my flat.)
4. "Housing problems in As were unknown. Almost daily examples of single men receiving three-room flats, well-equipped, were evidenced. A three-room flat (two rooms and

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a kitchen), cost 350 kcs a year in rent. A flat such as this in a new building might cost as much as 450 kcs a year. Worker residences were never checked by the Housing Commission. A worker leaving his flat for more than three days is required to report to the SNB.

5. "Forced transfer of workers in administrative posts to industries had completely ceased in As. Many women who were working in the textile factories were given notice, however. Most of these were women whose husbands were well employed. The employment office is still ordering youths to the Falknov mines, and to the Sokolov Chemical Works. Other youths are ordered from the textile industry to farming; every youth has, after finishing high school, to work in a kolkhoz for two months [redacted] 50X1-HUM
6. "Women are employed in the textile mills and as railway and bus conductors. (About 50% of conductors are women). Most women work of their own volition, for the money.
7. "Workers who participated in the Skoda riots in June 53 were sent to the border area to do agricultural work. For the most part, these went to kolkhozes and State Agricultural Farms, to fill the lack of agricultural workers in the border area.
8. "Every citizen of As was required to work 48 hours a year in a brigade for the improvement of the city. (Some citizens are required to work harvesting potatoes, etc., too). Brigade workers are summoned by loud speaker in the town. Agricultural brigade workers receive regular wages; kolkhozes cannot afford to pay these brigade wages, so wages are paid by the District Soviet. School children have to collect old paper and scrap, and other materials. The selection of workers to enjoy the workers' recreation period in the mountains is done on the basis of political reliability and the number of hours worked, by a given worker, on the 'voluntary' brigades. These workers usually receive better jobs and are backed by the Workers' Council and factory administration.
9. "Soviet moving pictures had poor attendance, in general; but a movie called 'Hero of the Black Sea' was very well received. Czech movies have no political twist. The only Western movies shown in As were French."

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